

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims as follows:

1. canceled.
2. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, in which the two opposite faces of the ring (2, 200) are fluted, and are adapted to mesh together with fluted facing faces of the supports (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400).
3. (withdrawn) A combination according to claim 15, in which a single face of the ring (2, 200) is fluted, and is adapted to mesh with a fluted single face of the support (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400), the non-fluted face of the ring and the facing face of the support adapted to be bonded together.
4. (withdrawn) combination according to claim 3, in which the non-fluted face of the ring and the facing face of the support are bonded together via a link insert.
5. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, in which the faces (21e, 21i) of the ring (2) and of the supports (3, 3'; 4, 4') which are adapted to mesh with the faces (21e, 21i) are cylindrical and parallel to the axis of rotation (X'X), the projections (2e, 2i; 2'e, 2'i; 3e, 4i; 3'e, 4'i; 20e, 20i) being radial.
6. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 2, in which the square of the ratio of the radii ( $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ) of cylindrical faces of the decoupling element is inversely equal to the ratio of the angles ( $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$ ) at the center intercepting two projections (2e, 2i; 2'e, 2'i; 20e, 20i) of the respective faces, the opposite projections being periodically distributed on the basis of a pattern.
7. (withdrawn) A combination according to claim 15, in which the faces (212, 213) of the ring (200) and the faces (312, 413) of the supports (300, 400) which are

adapted to mesh with the faces (212, 213) therewith are radial and perpendicular to the axis (X'X), the projections (202, 203; 302, 403) being axial.

8. (withdrawn) A combination according to claim 15, in which the faces of the ring (240) and of the supports (340, 440) which are adapted to mesh with the faces are cylindrical faces (25i, 25e) extending parallel to said axis of rotation (X,X), and radial faces (272, 273) extending perpendicularly to said axis, the projections being respectively radial (24i, 24e; 342, 443) and axial (262, 263).

9. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, in which the projections are crenellations of right section (2e, 2i) having side flanks (22a) that are substantially perpendicular to the face (21e, 21i) of the ring (2) on which they are formed.

10. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 6, in which the projections (20e, 20i) present side flanks (22b) of section that flares from the face (21e, 21i) of the ring, with a mean angle ( $\alpha_3$ ) of up to  $60^\circ$  relative to the radius (R1, R2), the projections having one of a trapezoidal, hyperbolic, or curved shape.

11. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 9, in which the projections (2'e, 2'I) present a profile that is constant or that varies linearly so as to facilitate unmolding and assembly by self-centering when engaging the ring (2) with the supports (3, 4).

12. (currently amended) A combination according to claim 15, in which the ring 2b is split to form an opening (5) so as to make it easier to assemble by being splayed apart while the hub (3) is being inserted and by being compressed while it is being inserted into the rim (4).

13. (previously presented) A combination according to claim 15, in which the ring (2, 200) is made by one of cutting, molding, extrusion followed by slicing, injection/compression, or making the material flat and then rolling it up and then cutting it to make split rings.

14. (withdrawn) A combination according to claim 10, in which the projections (2'e, 2'I) present a profile that is constant or that varies linearly so as to facilitate unloading and assembly by self-centering when engaging the ring (2) with the supports (3, 4).

15. (currently amended) A decoupling element and two support power transmission combination comprising: [[,]]

[[the]] a decoupling element made of deformable material; and

two supports;

wherein the decoupling element is interposed between [[the]] faces (31, 41; 312, 413) of the two supports (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400) of a drive device having a central axis (X'X) of rotation, one of the supports adapted to be driven, the decoupling element adapted to transmit power from the one support to the other support, the other support adapted for further power transmission,

the decoupling element further comprising [[being formed by]] a ring (2, 200) comprising a central core (1) and at least two opposite faces (21e, 21i; 212, 213), and being characterized in that at least one of these faces (21i, 21e; 212, 213) has abrupt projections meshed together with complementary abrupt projections of an opposing face (31, 41; 312, 313) of the support (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400), meshing of the ring (2, 200) creating zones (K<sub>1</sub>) at the roots of the projections (2e, 2i; 2'e, 2'i; 3e, 4i; 3'e, 4'i; 20e, 20i; 202, 203; 302, 403) in the central core, where the central core (1) substantially works in shear for transmission of said power from one support to the other, these zones being regularly distributed over at least one of the faces (21e, 21i; 212, 213) of the ring (2, 200), the abrupt projections of at least one of the faces (21i, 21e; 212, 213) present whether or not the abrupt projections mesh together with the

Serial No.: 10/721,884

complementary abrupt projections of the opposing face (31, 41; 312, 313) of the support.